

THE WEEKLY ARIZONIAN.

VOL. 1.

TUBAC, ARIZONA. JUNE 30, 1859.

No. 18.

THE ARIZONIAN, A WEEKLY PAPER, DEVOTED TO THE GENERAL INTERESTS OF ARIZONA.

—TERMS:—
Three Dollars per annum, in advance.
RATES OF ADVERTISING:
One Square, of 10 lines, or less, one insertion, \$2 00
" " " " " three " 4 00
" " " " " one quarter, 10 00
" " " " " one year, 30 00
All communications and business letters must be addressed to THE ARIZONIAN, Tubac, Arizona.

French Army crossing Mount Ceniz.

A correspondent of the London Times thus speaks of the march of the French army towards Austria:

On the evening of the 26th I crossed Mount Ceniz, where there were reports of the slaughter, the previous evening, of a large portion of the Sardinian army by the Austrians, and of the rapid advance of the latter upon Turin. These reports were contradicted when I reached Susa, on the morning of the 27; indeed, it appeared to be generally doubted whether the Austrians had as yet crossed the Ticino in any force. I found at that town the advance guard of the French army—some two thousand men—consisting of Chasseurs de Vincennes, and infantry of the line—ready to be pushed on by rail to Turin. Tickets were also issued to passengers for the six o'clock evening train. The same day, as I crossed Mount Ceniz, I met two battalions of infantry; and again, on the 28th, I passed, at different stages of the route, between Landisburg on the Savoy side of the mountains, and Culo on the French frontier, not less than 17,000 troops, including three regiments of light and one of heavy cavalry, a large body of Chasseurs, and sixteen brass field pieces; three regiments of infantry were marching rapidly along the line of rail, within a few miles of each other, while others were being conveyed in the train. I was struck with the disproportion both of cavalry and artillery to the whole of the abovementioned force—as the road from St. Jean Maurienne, where the railway terminates, to the foot of the Ceniz Pass, is excellent. 60,000 is said to be the number of troops about to be transported along this route.

The guns were all rifled, quite new, and very light, drawn by four horses, which appeared to my eye to want a little more blood. The cavalry were well mounted, and the infantry had every appearance of being admirably efficient, both in discipline and condition—active, sturdy little fellows. Although only on the outset of a campaign, every man looked as if he had passed every hour of his existence in the field—hardy, skilful and self-relying. The truth of the matter is, that scarcely a day passes in the garrison that the French soldier is not compelled to fence or to go through the bayonet exercise with his comrades, and his eye is quickened, his limbs strengthened, and he has become thorough master of his weapon. Why should we allow the Frenchman such an advantage over our own soldier in the use of the bayonet which we have always excelled in? May we not have to regret the neglect of this kind of training, spite of the bulldog courage and naturally excellent stamina of the English infantry?—Who could doubt the havoc that would be caused by a handful of trained pugilists in a melee, although opposed to unarmed men of any calibre? Might it not be to a certain extent the same with the bayonet? Could it not be possible to introduce into the English army some instruction and place of exercise, corresponding to the French regimental "Salle d'Armes," and by this means accomplish the double aim of improving the efficiency and occupying the idle time of our soldiers?

THE FRENCH EMPEROR'S CAMP TENT AND BEDSTEAD.—Malakoff writes to the New York Times: The camp tent of the Emperor Napoleon, which preceded him to Italy, was made by Alexis Godillot, and is in white and blue striped tent cloth, doubled. Its height is about fifteen feet. The interior is divided into three compartments—a saloon, bedroom and dressing-room. Doors in the cloth permit a passage from one room to the other, and windows are pierced for ventilation. An iron bed, folding seats and three small tables—one for the toilet, compose the furniture for the Imperial residence. The tent is remarkable for its perfect finish, the facility with which it can be put up and taken down, and its general adaptation to

the purpose for which it was destined. It was made five years ago, for the war in the Crimea, and started on its journey as far as Marseilles, but the Emperor changed his mind then, and the tent has lain ever since in the flag room of the Tuilleries. But, what is curious, the iron bed now in this tent, the toilet furniture and the table service in silver belonged to the first Emperor, and accompanied him in nearly all his campaigns; and as these campaigns were so many victories, Louis Napoleon is going to throw himself upon the destiny of these victorious wash-basins and saucepans. He hopes, on the fields of Marengo and Lodi, to sleep upon, and draw inspiration from, the same bed on which dreamed and schemed his great uncle, and on which he planned the great battles that have made the name of Bonaparte so illustrious.—As a superstition, there are more absurd ones than this of Louis Napoleon!

AFFAIRS IN MEXICO.—The Vera Cruz correspondent of the New York Herald thus sets forth the condition of things in Mexico:

The fury of the Church of Mexico has been let loose, and the horrors of the Inquisition and the merciless war of the Colonial Generals against the first patriots of the Mexican revolution are hourly re-enacted. We all (that is foreigners) live in fear, for no one can say when his hour of assassination may not come. We have seen in the past few days such scenes of barbarous assassination that we tremble to hear who shall not be the next victim of fiendish fanaticism. The natural sensibilities of the human beings have been stifled by the barbarities of the church and army clique of this capital. They have shot in cold blood, without judge, jury, or even a drum head court martial, over seventy-five persons (some say over one hundred,) most of whom were quiet and inoffensive citizens and foreign residents in Mexico. Our alarm is intensified the more by the fact that the French Minister encourages these bloodthirsty acts, and the British Minister, overruled by his wife, does not raise the voice of a civilized nation, which he represents, against these atrocities, unequalled by the seaports.—But it may perhaps be better first to enlighten you as to the cause of all this, before I speak more of our deplorable position.

THE COMMERCE OF THE PLAINS.—The Mexican trains and traders are arriving daily with gold, silver, furs, pelts, wool, and other desirable articles. At Bernard & Co.'s we see a pile of silver rocks, cakes, dornicks, or whatever you may call them, averaging from an ounce to five pounds each in weight. At the same place we see a sight that almost makes one feel like stealing. It is a pile of pure gold, (from Mexican mines, not from Pike's Peak,) as large as an apple-dumpling, weighing 168 ounces, 4 penny weights, 17 grains, and worth two thousand one hundred and sixty-four dollars and fifty cents! It was brought by Senor Nepomoseno Ancheta, and paid to Barnard & Co. for goods.

One of Col. Wm. Brent's trains arrived last week with furs, peltries, and twenty-two thousand buffalo robes. He has others yet to arrive. Last year he sent 4,700 robes. He and Allison have generally monopolized the trade of the South Platte and Walnut Creek in the fur and robe line. The robes shipped to market last year, via Westport and Kansas City, were as follows:

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| By Brent and Allison, as above, | 4,700 |
| By Hays & Co., Cunn. Hill & Co., of Council Grove, | 1,800 |
| By Morthrup & Chick, from the Osage country. | 2,000 |
| | 8,500 |

Besides these, we learn that Ward & Geary shipped last year 9,400 from the North fork of the Platte via Fort Laramie and Leavenworth, and the American Fur Company shipped 21,000 from the mouth of the Yellow Stone to Saint Louis—making the year's shipment of the Missouri Valley and tributaries sum up 38,900 robes, valued (\$4 each) at \$155,600.

The train of Senor Theodore Bacca came in some days since with a considerable amount of wool—probably some 14,000 lbs. Whether this wool was sheared, or picked off the bushes, (according to Spalding's patent,) we have not learned.—Westport Border Star.

A VALUABLE NUGGET.—The last overland California mail brings favorable news from the mining regions. A nugget of gold is said to have been dug up within the city limits of Columbia worth \$8,000.

Caloric Engines.

Ericsson's caloric engine is fast coming into general use. The editor of the Cincinnati Press describing the one used in his office, says:

Size (diameter) of cylinder, twenty-four inches; power of engine, five horse; motive power, hot air; weight of engine, one and a half tons; composed entirely of iron and brass; space occupied, six feet by two; fuel, coal, coke or wood; usual number of impressions per hour, 3,500; often run off full 4,000; cost of fuel per hour, one cent.

Of the same engines, the Pittsburg Gazette says:

For canal navigation the Ericsson engine is admirably adapted, and must supplant steam. In the printing-office, it is the thing wanted. To propel pumps it is admirably adapted. Mr. Staats M. Mead employs one in his store, in Pearl street, to work his hoisting apparatus, and it does the business for three buildings to perfect satisfaction. Its employment on the city railroads, in place of horses, is contemplated. Capt. Roberts, of the ship Underwriter, has engaged one to be put in his vessel to hoist in and out freight. When she leaves port, the hoisting apparatus will be detached, and the engine employed to work the pumps; for which purpose, in case of fire or a leak, it will be invaluable.

The size of the cylinders now constructed ranges from eight to thirty-two inches in diameter. The cost of an engine is about the same as that of the steam engine; but once in operation, the expenses of using it is trifling. Requiring no engineer, and little fuel, to keep up horse-power varying from two to sixteen, it will meet the wants of establishments that cannot afford steam-power. The absence of danger from explosions, etc., is an important consideration. According to present appearances, it will not be many years before caloric engines will be an appendage to every establishment carrying on manufacturing business.

ARMY ORDERS.—The War Department has issued general orders with a view to the better instruction of the artillery:

At each artillery station there will be established a thorough system of instruction, theoretical and practical, in the more essential elements of artillery service. The "Instruction for Field Artillery" established by the War Department; the "Instruction for Heavy Artillery" established by the War Department; the "Ordnance Manual;" the "Aide Memoire d'Artillerie" of the French, are designed for the present for theoretical instruction; and every officer will be required to have a copy. There will be for the present, and until it shall be made to appear, to the War Department that a certain proficiency has been attained, at least two days a week of recitation on the text books by the officers, and one day a week for laboratory duty. The commanding officer will, himself, conduct the recitations, or designate some suitable officer for that duty under his supervision, as well as to have charge of the laboratory. The instruction on drill will be for at least four days in the week when practicable. The practical instruction at the fortifications will be habitual, each company under its own officers, and under the direction of the commanding officer.

Among the victims destined to the recent sacrifice at Tacubaya, Mexico, was one Col'n Arrodillado, whose bold and successful leap for his life is worthy of record. Col. Arrodillado, as the New Orleans Picayune is informed by one who had it from an eye-witness, was already in the hands of the assassins, who, drawn up in a line, were about directing their pieces at him, when he cried aloud, so as to be heard not only by the bystanders, but by others at a distance, "Hold! hold there, a moment; I have a message, a revelation for the General-in-Chief!"—The tone of voice in which this announcement was made seemed so earnest and so sincere that it made instant impression upon the officers in command, who at once suspended the execution. No sooner, however, were the guns lowered than the bold man, his limbs now free, leaped from the midst of the crowd, cleared a slight inclosure, knocked down two soldiers in his way, plunged into a deep ravine, and, notwithstanding several hasty, random shots from the party he so unceremoniously left, made good his escape with his life.

Dean Swift, hearing of a carpenter falling through the scaffold of a house which he was engaged in repairing, dryly remarked that he had got through his work promptly!

The Pike's Peak Gold Seekers.

RUMORED MURDERS AND SACKING OF TOWNS! A correspondent of the N. York Herald writes from Omaha city, N. T., under date of May 13, as follows:

Some sixty miles westward from here, at the ferry crossing of the Platte, the proprietor of the ferry has forsaken his boat, leaving it in the hands of the infuriated mob. He reports about 700 or 800 disappointed ones there awaiting the arrival of more of the return emigrants, and then to decide upon some course of action.—Liquor is plenty, and belligerent spirits at fever heat. Two graves had been dug, one for Sam Curtis, a gentleman who had figured conspicuously as a correspondent from the mines, and the other for some person of the same ilk.—Certain death was threatened the aforesaid Curtis, and scouts were reported writhing for him. Death was promised an acquaintance of his, also. Both were on the road en route for the mines, and, through friends, they were informed of the threats of these lawless desperadoes, and they have disappeared.

A fearful state of affairs is reported to exist all along the route to the mines; thousands returning, threatening fire and plunder to the towns on the river as soon as a sufficient force could be rallied. Trouble is anticipated, and where or how it will end I know not. A Mr. Allen, who wrote some favorable letters, is reported murdered near Fort Kearny, and others. The press intended for the Rocky Mountain News, is reported to have been pitched into the Platte river, and the editor, Mr. Byers, had left to avoid the mob.

AMENDMENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUTION.—Contrary to general expectation, the two years' amendment was approved by the popular vote of Massachusetts on Monday. It is in the following words, which now constitute a portion of the State Constitution:

"No person of foreign birth shall be entitled to vote, or shall be eligible to office, unless he shall have resided within the jurisdiction of the United States for two years subsequent to his naturalization, and shall be otherwise qualified, according to the constitution and laws of this commonwealth; provided, that this amendment shall not affect the rights which any person of foreign birth possessed at the time of adoption thereof; and provided further, that it shall not affect the rights of any child of a citizen of the United States born during the temporary absence of the parent therefrom."

LORD JOHN RUSSELL ON WASHINGTON.—The first volume of the "Life and Times of Charles J. Fox," by Lord John Russell, has just appeared in England. The following is his Lordship's tribute to George Washington:

Before taking leave of the American War, a few words may be allowed on a topic where there can be no difference of opinion. George Washington, without the genius of Julius Caesar or Napoleon Bonaparte, has a far purer fame, as his ambition was of a higher and holier nature. Instead of seeking to raise his own name, or seize supreme power, he devoted his whole talents, military and civil, to the establishment of the independence and perpetuity of the liberties of his own country. In modern history no man has done such great things without the soil of selfishness, or the stain of a grovelling ambition. Caesar, Cromwell, Napoleon, attained a higher elevation, but the love of dominion was the spur that drove them on. John Hampden, William Russell, Algernon Sydney, may have had motives as pure, and an ambition as unstained, but they fell. To George Washington, nearly alone in modern times, has it been given to accomplish a wonderful revolution, and yet to remain to all future times, the theme of a people's gratitude, and an example of virtuous and beneficent power.

SPECIE.—The British sloop-of-war Alert, having \$2,500,000 of Mexican specie on board, arrived at Acapulco on the 12th from Mazatlan and San Blas. She left for Panama on the same day. This goes to England.

Every dog in Massachusetts, who would have the right to live, must be registered, numbered, and licensed by the town clerk, and every dog must wear a collar with his owner's name, and his own number registered on it.

There is a phrenologist near the docks who can tell the contents of a barrel by examining its head. He makes his examinations with a gimlet!